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CONGRESSIONAL RECC

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the books, were written to control and isolate trailer people rather than to regulate an industry. So it is that the California trailer park law, as late as 1970, prohibited squatting camping along roads and congregating in informal campgrounds.

And so it is that the law also required one toilet, one shower, and one lavatory for each sex for every 100 lots—a requirement park owners have tried to turn into a marketing plus by making such facilities into community centers.

After World War II, recalls Vee Schulze, a 44-year-old maintenance worker who lives in a camp city just outside Washington, D.C., "they popped up because there were no other living facilities. Your lower class lived in them then because they were cheap. It was the bad apple in the bushel."

Veterans on the GI bill also lived, on college campuses, in government-donated trailers recycled during the early postwar years. By 1950, however, the veterans had graduated from both college and trailer living. Their dream was a conventional house in exploding suburbia, not more of the same. That year, only 60,000 mobile homes were built—one tenth the number built two decades later.

Today, mobile homes are a \$4.5 billion a year business. In 1973, the 600,000 mobile homes accounted for about one-half of all new single family dwellings. By January 1974, although delivery of mobile homes had dropped by one-third, their share of all new single family homes had risen to 66 percent.

Five firms accounted for one-third of the mobile homes built. The largest producer, with nearly ten percent of the market, is Skyline Corporation. It is based in Elkhart, Indiana, apparently the mobile home capital of the world with 50 companies within a 26-mile radius of its city hall.

The mobile home industry in the 1960s and early 1970s has made rich men of hustlers who mostly live in stick-built houses. As the mobile home industry has expanded, so have mobile homes. Eight and ten-foot wide models are now obsolete. Twelve wides are standard, with 14-wides increasing (in states that allow such widths to be towed on highways) and double-wides gaining in popularity. Today's mobile homes are nearly three times larger than their World War II predecessors.

Mobile homes (except double wides) come furnished from the factory starting at about \$8,000. The low price tag is, of course, deceiving. For mobile homes represent, as Boston economist Carol S. Greenwald put it, "low cost housing with high cost financing." Financing is short term at high interest rates, often 12 percent and as high as 21.5 percent in Michigan. Buying a mobile home is more like buying a car than a house. The final irony is that because of the nearly \$1 per mile cost in moving a unit, mobile home owners are even less mobile than most Americans.

TIME FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

That mobile homes have become such a major share of the American housing market is reason enough to turn the industry, through legislation, into something more than an unregulated frontier caricature. There is no excuse for the abuses that exist. It is not enough to say, as Gerald Ford did last year before a mobile home manufacturers' meeting in Washington, that "This industry sort of epitomizes the free enterprise system."

There are obvious reforms that must be enacted: long-term leases of one year or more to provide the security within that mobile parks now promise from without; a ban on non-refundable entrance and exist fees; no rules that restrict lifestyles unless they invade the rights of others; no retaliatory evictions; no monopoly sales of mobile homes and accessories by park owners; creation of enforcement agencies to take offenders to criminal court, rather than leaving mobile

home owners the r protracted route of for damages or relief.

More for reasons of policy, the contra homes as vehicles houses must be re ficials can inspect sold. Especially in r are second-hand as inspected regularly safety standards. At are responsible for park, they must be as well, or else mu such services.

Warranties must to one year, and s where the mobile h factory (a stipulat which makes them other reason for extending the time limit. Federally-insured financing for mobile homes demands a one-year warranty. The lack of it largely explains why such programs go virtually unused, and are, in effect, meaningless. The answer is not to weaken the government requirement, but to force the industry, through legislation, to bring its warranty length into compliance.

Mobile homes will never become low-income housing until the financing period is extended, thereby reducing monthly payments. Currently, savings and loan associations are permitted to finance for 15 years, only if the mobile home is more than 14 by 68 feet, far bigger than most.

Banks are unlikely to make long-term investments in structures that literally fall apart after a few years. To build mobile homes better, the industry says, would simply jack up the price. But the total price tag alone is not what determines who can afford to buy; the monthly payment is paramount, and as long as mobile homes are financed over seven to nine years, the monthly payment for new models will remain high.

Mobile homes are low-cost housing if paid for in cash. The Nixon Administration has touted, but not begun on any large scale, a program of family housing allowances. Instead of providing monthly rent payments, the government could offer lump sums of cash for outright purchase of mobile homes. Beyond this, if former Housing Secretary George Romney's Operation Breakthrough failed to find new doors to cheaper mass-produced housing, at least one door has long been opened by the mobile home industry.

The United States has an enormous housing problem that extends beyond those we still call the Poor. Interest rates and construction costs are pricing what little new housing is being built beyond the reach of even middle-income Americans. Surely the depressing poverty of Nightingale-Woodley Hills and the 1984 double-speak of Friendly Village are not the final words on this one approach to new housing in America. In fact, the recent upsurge in mobile home construction is almost certain to continue. And as it does, the growing constituency of mobile home owners is likely to become a force that legislators cannot afford to ignore.

HIROSHIMA: LOOKING BACK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 7, 1974

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, 29 years ago yesterday, the United States committed the ultimate act of war. Seeking to

and the atomic bombing. As a estimate that 90 people lost

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sently engaged proliferation. son from Au e efforts must ust signal not of the possi- nuclear aggres- t and cannot

accept anything less.

CIA INTERVENTION IN GREECE

HON. MICHAEL HARRINGTON

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 7, 1974

Mr. HARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the Boston Globe, in an editorial of August 3, 1974, has spoken out strongly against revelations of CIA interference in Greece and other countries.

The editorial declared that—

It is as though the CIA is bound and determined to demonstrate that the United States has become the adversary to self-determination both at home and abroad and the buttress of autocratic governments the world over.

It is encouraging that such respected newspapers as the Boston Globe are showing their outrage over CIA intervention in the affairs of foreign countries. In the last couple of months, particular attention has been given to unlawful CIA intervention into this country's domestic affairs. CIA intervention into the domestic affairs of foreign countries is simply the other side of the coin and deserves equal attention in the press and Congress. Such intervention is equally illegal and is a manifestation of the same drive for unchecked power on the part of the executive branch of Government.

The editorial follows:

CIA's Exit in Greece

It will come as a surprise to many Americans to learn that the Central Intelligence Agency apparently has closed shop in Greece, departing with lock, stock and bags of tricks. Despite persistent rumors, it has never been certain that the CIA has been operating in Greece at all.

But according to authoritative news reports, the clandestine espionage agency not only has been operating in Greece, but, at least since the advent in 1967 of the now-deposed military junta, practically has been masterminding Greek politics as well.

According to an account this week in The New York Times, the CIA has meddled extensively in Greek domestic politics, shifting its allegiance among various factions. For a while in the mid-1960s, the agency reportedly even backed the leftward government of former premier George Papandreu. But mostly it has aided conservative figures.

The agency, for instance, reportedly sub-